God's Eternal Plan for His Church

To be able to understand the eternal plan made by God regarding Christ and His Church, we must carefully examine what Scripture says about it. God's plan for the newborn is to grow him, to perfect him, to make him like Christ. And He does this through His Word, through the Holy Spirit, and with the help of the members, who are in the Body of Christ. This project was made in eternity in Christ Jesus. (According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:11)

God's plan regarding the Body of Christ aims at our growth and reaching the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ! (And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints... till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13)

If we are attentive, we can easily observe that no man, who turns to God, has from the beginning the Fruit of the Spirit, namely longsuffering, gentleness, love... These qualities must be obtained through God's work with man. In this work, we have at our disposal the Word of Scripture that works with us, the Holy Spirit who works in His turn, and the Church which is the Body of Christ. To better understand the role of the Church in our growth and perfection, we will highlight some verses from the Holy Word that show God's involvement in the Church which is the Body of Christ.

1. "I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18)

2. "And he is the head of the body, the church." (Colossians 1:18)

3. "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (1 Corinthians 12:27)

4. "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." (Ephesians 5:29)

5. "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church." (Colossians 1:24)

The Church is identified as being the body of Christ. He is the head of the body, and people, born of the seed of God, are the members. (And he is the head of the body, the church. Colossians 1:18; Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 1 Corinthians 12:27)

God arranges the Body of Christ, its functioning being similar to that of the human body. (But God hath tempered the body together. 1 Corinthians 12:24) He places in the Body of Christ only members who have life from above/born again people. (And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2:47)

He begins His work with us and if we remain obedient, He will carry it through to completion. (Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6)

He has promised that He will be with us every day, that He will not leave us for a moment. He will take us by the hand and accompany us to the end of the road. (Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:20; For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Hebrews 13:5)

Scripture shows us the relationship/connection that must exist between the members of the Church of Christ/His Body:

- They are closely joined together. (From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:16)

- They do not live for themselves. (For none of us liveth to himself. Romans 14:7)

- They are members one of another. (So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Romans 12:5)

- Each looks out for the good of others. (But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 1 Corinthians 12:7; Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth. 1 Corinthians 10:24)

- They care for one another. (But God hath tempered the body together... that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 1 Corinthians 12:24, 25)

- They are subject to one another. (Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Ephesians 5:21)

- In lowliness of mind each esteems others better than themselves. (Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Philippians 2:3)

- They bear one another's burdens. (Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2)

– The greatest among them is the servant of all. (But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. Matthew 23:11)

– They watch over one another. (And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Hebrews 10:24)

– They watch that no one is worldly/does not tolerate evil. (Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person. Hebrews 12:16)

– They love one another after the model of Christ.(Love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:12) Only in the Church can we experience these relationships, which are essential for our growth until we all reach the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)

Questions:

– Are we part of a closely knit, well-compacted Body? (Ephesians 4:16)

– Are we in the Body/Family for the benefit of the other members?

(1 Corinthians 10:24)

– Whom are we closely joined to, whose burdens are we bearing?

(Galatians 6:2)

– Do we live in submission to Christ and to other members?

(Ephesians 5:21)

– Do we watch over one another so that there is no worldly person among us?

(Hebrews 12:16)

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "The Church – The Body of Christ", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.